

2086 There's no I in BME – Change is Easier Together

Proposer: Tarun Sridhar (Ethnic Minorities officer)

Seconder: Edidiong Bassey (Chair of BME Caucus)

Passed 23 March 2017

Union Notes:

1. That preparation and planning for Black history month started off in May 2016
2. That Fresher's week ("FW") takes place every year and a motion to do so with Black History Month ("BHM") was passed last year.
3. That, even though FW and BHM were projects which were bound to be undertaken, BHM suffered from a lack of resources.
4. That the Students' Union did not balance their interests in conducting fresher's week & Black History Month
5. That the Union has given an apology, to the BME caucus, for its failure to support the Ethnic Minorities' Officer during BHM.
6. Liberation groups have been identified as such because they are marginalised/underrepresented groups
7. The Sabbatical officer structure (Lack of Hierarchy) is such that, there is no one officer who will always be held accountable.
8. The lack of cohesion and coordination in the BME community, at university, has led to lack of successful campaigns and events.

Union Believes:

1. That commercial activities of a Charity should not come in the way of liberation projects/campaigns
2. The students' union must be proactive and enthusiastic in celebrating and representing all groups of students, especially marginalised groups.
3. The level of activity of a students' union, with regards to liberation projects/campaigns, should not solely depend on the proportion of a liberation group within the overall student population or within organisation itself
4. Sabbatical officers should also take the responsibility for organising liberation campaigns/projects
5. The BME community should have a way of working together to promote each of their cultures and overcome their collective and respective struggles.
6. That the Union should actively investigate how to increase the proportion of permanent BME staff

Union Resolves:

1. That the Welfare, Community, & Diversity as well as the Campaigns & Democracy officer must actively assist and hold joint accountability with the Ethnic Minorities Officer with BME campaigns/projects.
2. That the Union develop adequate training for staff about BME issues (British National or International student) necessary to be understood in the context of university, and that the Welfare, Community, & Diversity officer oversees and assists in this training with the help of the Ethnic Minorities Officer.
3. That BME campaigns/projects must not be side-lined for commercial activities.
4. That the Union actively investigate, and provide, the level of resources needed for BHM and the successful running of BME events.
5. To mandate the Welfare, Community, & Diversity officer, Ethnic Minorities Officer, and Campaigns & Democracy officer to set up a 'BME committee', led by the Ethnic Minorities Officer and consisting of Presidents/Vice presidents, depending on availability, of all cultural societies that self-identify as Ethnic Minority/BME.
6. That the 'BME Committee' shall be set up just after the committee elections of the cultural societies, at the end of the year, are completed.
7. That the 'BME Committee' shall be involved in the planning and implementation of all BME campaigns/events/projects.